



5 September 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Highways Assistance, Rota and Saipan

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Department of Public Works (DPW), Technical Services Division (TSD), administers the highway system in CNMI in conjunction with funds received by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Federal funding level is approximately \$3.2M annually.

b. In November 1998, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was executed between CNMI and the Honolulu District. Currently, the District is assisting CNMI with the following projects:

(1) Rota Route 100, Rota. The original contractor has filed for bankruptcy. TSD has requested to complete the design on this project. The scope of work is being developed. The District will also provide construction management service through the local Architect-Engineer (A-E) firms.

(2) Airport Road Improvements, Saipan. The project provides only design services through an A-E consultant. The preparation of the contract documents was completed in November 2002. Currently, the Honolulu District is assisting CNMI to address off-site drainage problems. The scope of work is being developed.

(3) Rota Route 101, Rota. This project will also provide only design services through an A-E. The project is to resurface one mile of roadway. The Support Agreement, was signed by the DPW Secretary, Juan S. Reyes, on 30 May 2003 requesting for funds in the amount of \$125,000.

(4) King Fisher Road, Saipan. TSD has requested our assistance to prepare an environmental assessment for this project. The project is to resurface/construct approximately five (5) miles of roadway. The project will also include construction of two new bridges. The Support Agreement, requesting for funds in the amount of \$165,000 was transmitted to TSD on 31 July 2003.

3. Congressional Interest. Representative Tenorio has expressed a strong interest in these projects.